Alexey Zarakovskiy

Senior Backend Engineer
Master in Computer Science

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Fluent: English, Russian
Proficient: Dutch, Spanish & Polish

Citizen of the European Union

15+ years in software engineering. Language and technology agnostic. *Nothing-is-impossible* mindset.

Golang · Python · Java · Kotlin · PHP · Javascript · Typescript · Bash · C#.NET

Kubernetes · AWS · Docker · Kafka · DynamoDB · PostgreSQL · GCP · Elasticsearch · Protobuf · React

AWS CDK · Prometheus · Grafana · Datadog · Gitlab CI · ArgoCD

Projects & Experience

Personio · European HR platform serving 12k+ customers

Senior Backend Engineer · Mar 2023 - Present · 2 yrs 7 mos · Amsterdam

Whistleblowing (Golang): Led greenfield development of EU directive compliance service. Architected dual-infrastructure solution with dedicated AWS setup for complete anonymity, implementing custom token-based authentication and achieving fault-tolerant system with 99.92% uptime and 100-300ms response times. Managed a virtual team supporting the production system after it reached maintenance mode, resolving 14 critical security vulnerabilities.

Surveys (Kotlin): Transitioned from Golang to Kotlin stack, leading end-to-end features including dashboard overhaul with flexible filtering (major API change), single user data snapshot functionality (preventing exponential DB growth), date-based entity attributes (sophisticated entities based on relative date values), questions result categorization (higher business abstraction) and database index optimization (2x performance improvement for 10 affected endpoints). Optimized database architecture and migrated 24Gb of data without downtime while achieving 99.96% uptime with latency below 500ms.

Golang · Kotlin · Kubernetes · AWS · PostgreSQL · Docker · Kafka ·· Protobuf · Typescript · ArgoCD · AWS CDK

BEAT | FREENOW · Ride-hailing platform with 250k+ drivers across LatAm and Greece

Senior Backend Engineer · Sep 2019 - Jan 2023 · 3 yrs 4 mos · Amsterdam

Pricing team: Built geo-zone pricing algorithms with incentive-driven dynamic pricing.

Platform infrastructure team: Developed API gateway backed by Skipper, and highly-performant authentication microservice backed by DynamoDB and Redis, handling 5-10k requests/second. Replaced PHP monolith implementation with microservices architecture while maintaining live infrastructure. Consumed user identity data from Kafka as ownership transitioned from monolith.

Kubernetes deep-dive: conducted extensive research and implemented custom CRDs integrated with Kubernetes API to achieve flexible routing beyond standard Ingress capabilities. Built Golang libraries and tooling enabling multiple teams to dynamically register API endpoints facilitating independent gradual monolith migration.

Golang · Kubernetes · AWS · DynamoDB · Docker · Kafka · PHP · Protobuf

fashionTrade · Early-stage B2B fashion marketplace backed by Bestseller & Zalando

Senior Java Engineer · May 2018 - Jul 2019 · 1 yr 3 mos · Amsterdam

Owned end-to-end architecture and delivery for data integration platform serving hundreds of early adopters in the European fashion wholesale market through multiple funding rounds. Built a distributed system handling complex async workflows: API data ingestion, entity disambiguation via Elasticsearch fuzzy matching, Kafka event streaming, and microservices orchestration on Kubernetes. Full responsibility for cloud infrastructure and production reliability.

Java · Python · REST · Docker · Kafka · GCP · Kubernetes · Elasticsearch

SDL Web · Open-source framework for a complex enterprise CMS

Technical Team Lead · Jan 2017 - Apr 2018 · 11 mos · Amsterdam

Senior Java Engineer · Oct 2015 - Jan 2017 · 1 yr 8 mos · Amsterdam

Led development of the open-source Java counterpart of an enterprise CMS framework, implementing reflection-based dynamic model mapping and abstraction layers for developers, leading to reduced integration time. Managed contributions from the community.

Java · Spring · Maven · Gradle · Open-source · C#.NET

EPAM Systems · Global outsourcing consultancy

(Senior) Java/Javascript Full-stack Engineer · Jul 2012 - Sep 2015 · 3 yrs · Russia ➜ Poland & Germany

Delivering full-stack solutions for international clients across Russia (Yota), United States (PayPal) and Germany (MeteoSystems).

L.I.C. · Business process automation

Java / Javascript Full-stack Developer · Jul 2011 - Jul 2012 · 1 yr 1 mos · Russia

Built retail workflow automation systems, handling both backend and frontend.

Web studio "Orange" · Custom CMS and website development

PHP/Javascript Developer / Project Manager · Jun 2009 - Jun 2011 · 2 yrs 1 mos · Russia

Co-founded web studio as CTO. Developed proprietary CMS for commercial clients.

State factory "Energy" · Signal processing and monitoring systems

C++ / C#.NET Developer · Jul 2006 - Jun 2009 · 3 yrs · Russia

Developed real-time signal processing software for radio monitoring systems.

Education

ITMO University, Master in Computer Science · 2005 - 2011 · Russia

UX Design Essentials Course, Exigen Services · 2011 · Russia